

AGENDA
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2016
PUBLIC HEARING TO ANNEX PROPERTY
AT CORNER OF EAST HIGHWAY 76 & MARKET DRIVE
6:20 P.M.

At 6:20 p.m. on September 13, 2016, Mayor Bobby L. Davis called the Public Hearing to order. Present were Council members Ronald Atkinson, Ralph Atkinson, Joseph Frazier, and Odessa Gregg. Council members Michael Baker and Emerson were not present. Also present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown and City Clerk Pam Jones.

With no comments from the public, Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

REGULAR MEETING 6:30 P. M.

A regular meeting was held by City Council on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. over which Mayor Bobby L. Davis presided. Council members Michael Baker, Ralph Atkinson, Ronald Atkinson, Odessa Gregg, Joseph Frazier and Emerson Hunt were present. Also present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown City Clerk Pam Jones and City Attorney Kenneth Davis.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order and Councilwoman Gregg gave the opening prayer. Mr. Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Davis welcomed citizens, guests and the press. (Hometown TV).

Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on August 9, 2016, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Freddy Foy of the Sanitation Department, was named *August Employee of the Month* and received a gift certificate. Mayor Davis stated that Mr. Foy was doing an excellent job for the City.

The Mayor's Monthly Beautification award for August was awarded to Mr. Ervin Woodberry for his efforts in cleaning up the new sub-station before the ribbon-cutting and open house. Mayor Davis thanked him for his hard work and helping keep Marion beautiful.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to approve 2nd reading on **ORDINANCE 16-04, AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF US HIGHWAY 76 and MARKET DRIVE**, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ammons commented that the Withlacoochee Draining Project has been completed. The CTC project for the Council on Aging is still outstanding. Mr. Ammons and Mayor Davis hope to have a package ready at the next Council meeting for Council's consideration on new CTC projects. Mr. Ammons reminded Council that fall sports are now in full swing and encouraged them to stop by Watsonia for football, flag football and fall girls' softball.

CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Kenneth Davis had nothing to report at this time.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mayor Davis commented that Council received the Departmental Reports in their packets. Ms. Dolly Boyer reported that they had 88 people at their Night Out. She thanked Mayor Davis, Mr. Ammons and Councilwoman Gregg for their support. Mr. Denley Caughman commented that the Historic Marion County Awakened (HMCA) had a temporary Welcome Center at the Depot (Chamber Office) and invited everyone to stop by to see what HMCA has to offer at this time. He further commented that there are numerous future projects being discussed, some of which are in the planning stage that will benefit Marion and Marion County. Mayor Davis would like to include the City Council and County Council in the County-wide Mayor's meeting. Mr. Chuck McNeil gave an update on the PDRTA services provided for residents of the City of Marion.

DISTRICTS AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Councilman Emerson Hunt had no comment at this time.

Councilwoman Odessa thanked the Mayor, Council and residents of the City of Marion for the cooperation and progress that has been shown. She commented that the visit by Columbia Mayor Benjamin who spoke at the Town Hall meeting, was another interaction to help us be progressive and even though Marion is small, she appreciates seeing how progressive we have become. Councilwoman Gregg thanked Mr. Ammons for contacting Duke Energy when her lights went out and the quick response

in getting them back on. Mr. Ammons is always very helpful and she continues to call him whenever there is a problem and thanks him for that. She commented how impressed she was with the articles that Vicki Nichols puts in the Swamp Fox Scene, including the summer camp trips to Brook Green Gardens and to the State Capitol and she was going to contact Reba Campbell, managing editor for MASC. She wrote MS. Campbell a note and sent a copy of the Scene so that she could see what we're doing in the City of Marion. Councilwoman Gregg stated that we were going to have to sell ourselves and toot our own horn, because we are doing a good job. There has been a lot of progress because of the hard work of our Mayor, Council and citizens, working together as a team. Councilwoman Gregg thanked everyone for their hard work and is proud to live in Marion and proud to be here tonight.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson commented that he went to the sub-station ribbon cutting on Jones Avenue and hopes that it will be utilized and make a police presence known. He has been by and there have been no police cars there. Mayor Davis responded that this has been discussed with Chief Tennie and he is working on it.

Councilman Joseph Frazier commented that District 4 met last week and discussed the curfew for minors (under 17) and felt that since school has started it should be lowered from 12 midnight to 10 p.m., which would help take these kids off the street. He also commented that the unsightly nursing home in his neighborhood should have something done about it. Councilman Frazier would like the City to send the owner of this property, and also his building on Liberty Street, a letter as this property has been a nuisance to the City of Marion for 19 years. Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to send Mr. Simon Jenkins a letter requiring him to do something with the aforementioned properties, as they are an eyesore in the City of Marion, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson. Councilman Hunt commented that Councilman Frazier is right in that this property is an eyesore should be taken care of, but it is not appropriate to embarrass the property owner in here or on TV. We have an Ordinance for that, that just passed and it applies to him as well, so we don't need to further embarrass the person(s) involved in the situation. Councilman Hunt further commented that it is incumbent on us not to target people and embarrass them, even if we disagree with them. We can't publicly attack our citizens, we are bigger and better than that as a Council. Councilman Ralph Atkinson commented that we just need to enforce the Ordinance that is still in place. Attorney Davis stated there is a process in place so there is no need to

vote to send a letter. Councilman Frazier commented that the property owner has known for several years that something needs to be done with his property and if you don't sit here and tell somebody about it, it will be the same thing and just keep sitting there. Councilman Frazier further commented that it's in his district and he wants something done about it. Councilman Frazier withdrew the motion and stated they would go by the Ordinance in place.

Councilman Michael Baker had no comment at this time.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis commented that Mr. Larry Duck and other citizens are concerned about the speed limits in the City and how some people disregard the speed limit in some areas. Mayor Davis presented a sign received from Mr. Duck for Council's review. The sign is a "Slow Down" sign that would be placed in various locations. Mayor Davis's recommendation would be to get several signs and have each Council member determine who would get them and if they want a certain area targeted for speeders. We will put this on the agenda for our next meeting in order for Council to determine if they would like to take action on this. Councilman Ralph Atkinson commented that the radar sign that is placed around town also gets attention and helps slow drivers down. Chief Tennie responded that Dennis Brown puts the sign out every morning at 7:30. Councilman Frazier asked if the sign could be put on Smith Street because they think from Reaves to Liberty Street is a speedway and there are no speed limit signs along Bobby Davis Blvd. Mayor Davis responded that to get speed limit signs, that goes through the state and is a long process, but we can put the radar sign there. The sweeper is still in the shop in Columbia and should be back to us this Thursday. Mayor Davis asked that the citizens please be patient as we strive to keep Marion clean. He thanked Columbia's Mayor Benjamin and his Police Chief for attending and speaking at our Town Hall meeting. He also thanked the County's Mayors and other representatives for their participation. Judge Dan Barker, along with other local judges will be asked to speak at the next Town Hall meeting. The public is encouraged to come and ask questions about our legal system. The Curfew Ordinance can be amended but we will need to ask Law Enforcement to double down and work hard if it is amended. The officers will have to take them home to their parents and will take them away from the other jobs they are doing. We want to make certain we have our City covered when it comes to the safety of our citizens. Mr. Wes Knight, the new CFO for the hospital, will appear on *Swamp Fox Country* and will share some ideas and insight with us, as to what he wants to do in Marion County. Mayor Davis thanked Mr. Denley Caughman and the HMCA for all they are trying to do. AWS has purchased 2 new trucks and are catching up and getting back on schedule. If you are still having

problems with trash pickup, please call City Hall and we will do our best to make sure that problem is eliminated. We try to help as much as possible, but we cannot pay residents light bills or water bills with taxpayer's money. Mayor Davis stated, "That is a good way to see your Mayor walk off in handcuffs, and I'm too old to go to jail. I don't plan to do that and please don't even ask us to pay light bills and water bills. I know that upsets some people when I say that, but that's the truth and we cannot do that." The Employee Lunch will be held tomorrow at Pop Dorsey Park. It gives our employees a chance to get to know each other and we now have sponsors who take care of the lunches for our employees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter with the City Attorney and for Legal Advice from the City Attorney, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried. Upon returning from Executive Session, Mayor Davis stated that no action was taken. Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis

City Clerk Pam Jones
Taped September 13, 2016